

# Elements of a Vignette

## What is it?

A vignette is a very well described, detail filled, MOMENT in time, not a three or four day event.

Unlike a narrative essay, it is not necessary to have an introduction or conclusion; just jump right into it!

The beginning of your text should make the reader want to read more.

The ending of your vignette should leave your reader with a definitively strong feeling of some kind: excitement, sadness, fear, etc.

The theme of your vignette does not have to be stated explicitly; it may be implied.

## How do you do it?

Use strong sensory images to make a vignette *unique*.

Let your characters *scream at the top of their lungs* or *whisper sadly*.

**Show:** Julio's eyes were the window to his soul; the pain that he had endured had settled upon him like a heavy fog.

**Don't tell:** Julio was sad.

Decide on a narration type and stick to it.

Consider the verb tense: present, past, future. Make sure each verb is appropriate in the text.

Use dialogue and interior monologues. Consider what type of person your character is and use figurative language fitting to their personality.

Make the names of your characters count; you would not want your handsome hero named **Dorkus McDingleberry**.

You can always embellish the truth-- if the truth just isn't that interesting!

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_